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SUMMARY

25X1

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Iraq wants defense pact with Turkey, Britain and US by April (page 4).

LATE ITEMS

4. Moscow approaches British with suggestion for ten-power conference on Formosa (page 5).
5. Italians favor general East-West conference to achieve "detente" (page 6).

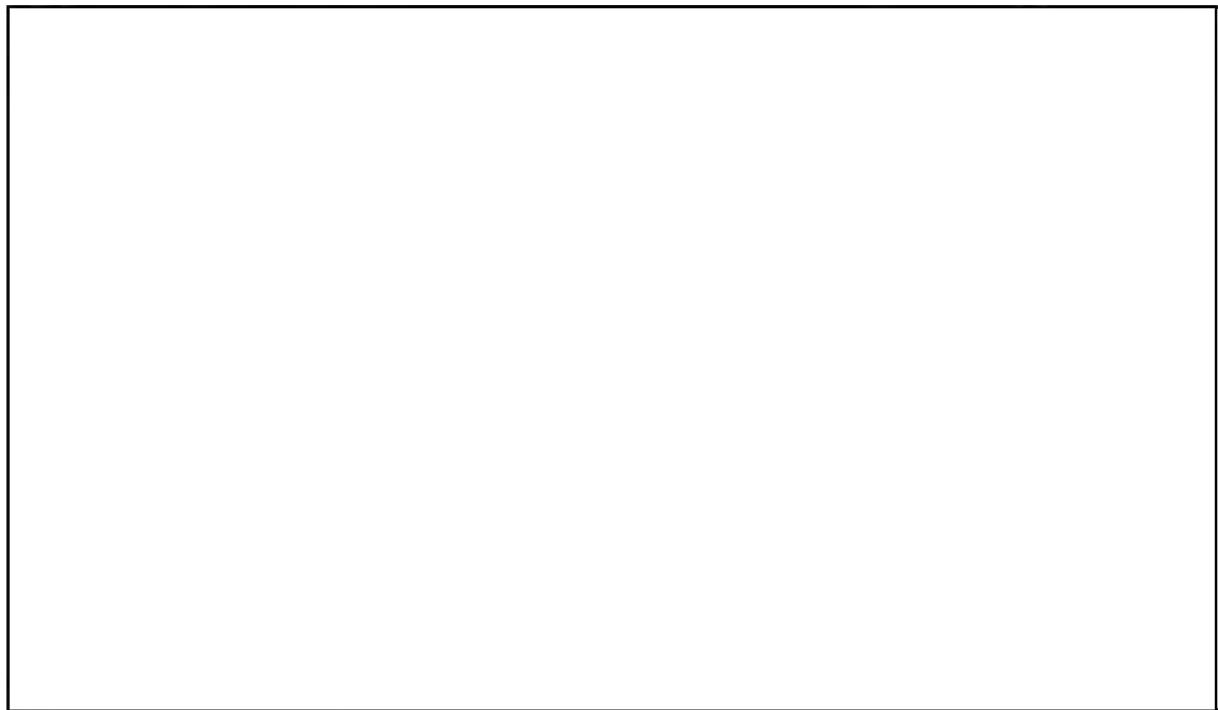
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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

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3. Iraq wants defense pact with Turkey, Britain and US by April:

Iraqi prime minister Nuri Said has advised the British ambassador in Baghdad that he wishes to sign a defense pact with Turkey, the United States, and Britain in March or April.

Nuri also told American ambassador Gallman on 3 February that he wants

the proposed Iraqi-Turkish treaty to be the first step toward a general pact including Syria, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Britain, and the United States.

Comment: The proposed Iraqi-Turkish treaty, according to the communique issued by Nuri and Turkish prime minister Menderes on 13 January, will be open to states which wish to join and "are able to do so by reason of their geographical position or the means at their disposal."

The United States has an arms aid agreement with Iraq, and Britain has two air bases in that country under terms of the Anglo-Iraqi treaty of 1930, which expires in 1957.

Nuri, who has publicly promised action this spring on the Anglo-Iraqi treaty, probably hopes the proposed pact can be made to serve as a substitute for the treaty with Britain. In October British officials in London indicated to Nuri "general sympathy" for this approach.

LATE ITEMS

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4. Moscow approaches British with suggestion for ten-power conference on Formosa:

On 4 February Foreign Minister Molotov handed the British ambassador in Moscow a memorandum suggesting that a conference on the China situation be held this month in Shanghai or New Delhi attended by the Big Four, Communist China, India, Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Ceylon. This was necessary, he said, because the United States and British position had made "lawful and impartial consideration" by the UN "impossible."

25X1A

Ambassador Bohlen feels this latest move is designed to bring the USSR in line with the Chinese, whose intransigence on UN consideration of the question he believes surprised even Moscow. The ambassador notes that the Soviet Union could hardly expect the Western powers, especially the United States, to accept this proposal to by-pass the UN and ignore Nationalist China completely. He sees it as an obvious play for Asian neutralist sentiment providing propaganda support for the Chinese and serving to keep Moscow in the center of any diplomatic negotiations on this issue.

Comment: If there have been differences between Moscow and Peiping as to how this problem should be handled, their policy now appears to be co-ordinated.

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This latest move would seem designed primarily to generate pressure on the United States from its major allies and the Asian neutrals for conferences which could be manipulated to Communist advantage more easily than could UN discussions.

Peiping almost certainly intends to maintain tension in the China area by various means, including limited military operations, in order to give an air of urgency to such negotiations and to a settlement on Peiping's terms.

5. Italians favor general East-West conference to achieve "detente":

25X1A

[redacted] Italian officials suggested to Turkish prime minister Menderes on his recent visit to Rome the necessity of an early general East-West conference to achieve a "detente" to reduce world tensions, according to Ambassador Warren in Ankara. The Italians have in mind a meeting, including also the Satellites and the neutralist nations, to seek a decision on general disarmament.

The Turks rejected the suggestion as impractical and undesirable at this time.

Comment: Rome has frequently expressed concern over the limitation of East-West talks to the "big powers," but this is the first indication that Italy is attempting to generate support for broadening the base of such discussions.

In view of the inability of the UN Disarmament Commission to reach agreement, there probably would be considerable interest in Western Europe in a conference of the type proposed.